

prioritizing the fight against some forms of terror over others.

The message we want to send has to be clear and direct. We will not tolerate any support for terrorism, especially among those who purport to be our friends.

Everyone has seen the Syrian action in Lebanon and we know how treacherous that is. They occupy the country and pretend they want to make peace, but they do not want to. They have not indicated by their actions that they want to.

I yield the floor.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2004—CONFERENCE REPORT—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, it is my hope that we can go next to the Defense authorization conference report. We have some Senators who may want to make closing remarks, and then we would like to adopt this important conference report during today's session. I think it is fitting that the Senate act on this measure today, on Veterans Day.

Having said that, I ask my Democratic colleagues if they are prepared to allow for a 3-hour debate limitation prior to a vote on adoption of the Defense conference report.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we have no problem going to the conference report today. We do not need a vote on the motion to proceed. We would go to that. We have our Congressional Medal of Honor winner, Senator INOUE, who asked to be present when we vote on this conference report, and I think we should do that. He is somebody we all look upon as a hero, and he is doing veterans ceremonies in his State. We have no problem debating the bill today.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, will the Senator yield?

Senator STEVENS told me he would be back here at about 6:30.

Mr. REID. We would be happy to have 4 hours of debate today, equally divided, and a vote on it early in the morning, but we would rather not vote on the matter today. I would be happy to offer a consent request that we would complete our debate on it today, and vote on it, with maybe 5 minutes equally divided, early in the morning, at whatever time the leader chooses.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, we have a number of Senators who believe strongly that we ought to go ahead and bring this bill up, that we should debate it, and that on Veterans Day we should have that opportunity to vote on that bill, if at all possible. Therefore, I will not agree to put the vote off until tomorrow. We will be bringing it to the floor, and I think then we will have discussion, debate today, on this Veterans Day. We will see how it goes, and we may or may not be voting later tonight.

Mr. President, reclaiming the floor, thus, we have Members who would like this rollcall vote. Having said that, I move that the Senate proceed to the consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 1588, the National Defense Authorization Act, and I ask for the yeas and nays on the motion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CHAFEE). Is there a sufficient second?

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if I could ask a question.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, could we keep this vote open for a little extra time, maybe an extra 20 minutes? We need 30 minutes because we have a Senator who is 30 minutes away. I know it is unusual to have a vote that long, but maybe this one time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion is not debatable. It would require a unanimous consent.

Mr. REID. I withdraw any request I have.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion to proceed to the consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 1588. The yeas and nays have been ordered. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. CAMPBELL), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL), and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KYL) are necessarily absent.

Mr. REID. I announce that the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH), the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. EDWARDS), the Senator from Florida (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. MILLER), and the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. NELSON) are necessarily absent.

I further announce that, if present and voting, the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. NELSON) would each vote "yea."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 87, nays 1, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 446 Leg.]

YEAS—87

Akaka	Carper	DeWine
Alexander	Chafee	Dodd
Allard	Chambliss	Dole
Allen	Clinton	Domenici
Baucus	Cochran	Dorgan
Bennett	Coleman	Durbin
Biden	Collins	Ensign
Bingaman	Conrad	Enzi
Bond	Cornyn	Feingold
Breaux	Corzine	Feinstein
Brownback	Craig	Fitzgerald
Bunning	Crapo	Frist
Burns	Daschle	Graham (SC)
Cantwell	Dayton	Grassley

Gregg	Lott	Sarbanes
Harkin	Lugar	Schumer
Hatch	McCain	Sessions
Hollings	McConnell	Shelby
Hutchison	Mikulski	Smith
Inhofe	Murkowski	Snowe
Jeffords	Murray	Specter
Johnson	Nelson (FL)	Stabenow
Kennedy	Nickles	Stevens
Kohl	Pryor	Sununu
Landrieu	Reed	Talent
Lautenberg	Reid	Thomas
Leahy	Roberts	Voinovich
Levin	Rockefeller	Warner
Lincoln	Santorum	Wyden

NAYS—1

Byrd

NOT VOTING—12

Bayh	Graham (FL)	Kyl
Boxer	Hagel	Lieberman
Campbell	Inouye	Miller
Edwards	Kerry	Nelson (NE)

The motion was agreed to.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2004—CONFERENCE REPORT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the conference report. The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Committee of Conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1588), to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2004 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes, having met, have agreed that the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate and agree to the same with an amendment, and the Senate agree to the same, signed by a majority of conferees on the part of both Houses.

The Senate proceeded to consider the conference report.

(The conference report is printed in the RECORD of November 6, 2003)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. WARNER. As chairman of the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate, together with my distinguished colleague from Michigan, the ranking member, we are proud to bring a conference report on national defense authorization for fiscal year 2004 for final passage.

It is fitting that we consider this important legislation on Veterans Day, a day when our Nation pauses to honor those who serve in the Armed Forces, their families, and those who have gone before them, proudly defending our Nation's freedom.

I was deeply moved earlier today by the number of Senators on both sides of the aisle who spoke out with a sense of reverence and respect on this Veterans Day, November 11, 2003.

This bill provides much needed benefits to those now serving, and their families, in the Armed Forces, as well as addressing longstanding needs of military retirees and veterans. This has been an unusually interesting and somewhat lengthy conference. In my 25 years, I think Senator LEVIN and I